

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub A'*
1. A semi-automatic firearm, comprising:
 - a magazine;¹⁶
 - a frame with a magazine well¹⁰ for receiving the magazine;
 - a slide¹⁴ removably mounted on the frame, wherein the slide may be in a
 - 5 chamber closed position and a chamber open position;
 - a striker firing-pin assembly¹² mounted within the slide;
 - a firing mechanism²⁴ having a trigger²⁴, a trigger bar²⁴, and a sear³²; and
 - an access port⁶⁶ disposed in the slide;
 - 10 wherein when the slide is in said chamber closed position, said sear is accessible through said access port.
 2. The firearm of claim 1, wherein in the chamber closed position, the access port is aligned with the sear.
 - Sub B'* 3. The firearm of claim 2, further comprising:
 - a sear assembly that includes a sear housing³⁸ and a sear guide³⁴;
 - wherein the sear is slidably mounted within the sear housing and guided by the sear guide.
 4. The firearm of claim 3, wherein said the assembly further comprises a sear spring⁴⁰ that biases the sear substantially toward the slide.
 5. The firearm of claim 3, wherein the sear assembly further comprises a pivot arm, wherein the sear is slidably attached to the pivot arm and the pivot arm is pivotally attached to the sear housing.
 6. The firearm of claim 5, wherein the sear guide extends through a slot in the sear and a sear spring⁴⁰ biases the sear into contact with the sear guide.

7. The firearm of claim 5 further comprising a ¹⁵⁸magazine safety that impairs the movement of the firing mechanism so that the firing mechanism cannot be actuated.

8. The firearm of claim 7 wherein the magazine safety comprises a lever ¹² that engages a ⁵⁸pin attached to the sear when the magazine safety is on, and thereby impairs lateral movement of the sear.

9. The firearm of claim 2, wherein inserting a ²⁰probe into the access port and moving the sear with the probe permits the slide to be removed from the frame.

10. A semi-automatic firearm, comprising:
¹⁰a frame;
¹⁴a slide removably mounted on the frame;
¹²a firing mechanism; and
⁶an access port disposed in the slide;
 wherein the firing mechanism is accessible through the access port and can be manipulated to allow removal of the slide from the frame.

11. The firearm of claim 10 wherein the access port is aligned with the firing mechanism when the slide is in a chamber-closed position.

12. The firearm of claim 11 further comprising a magazine safety that impairs the movement of the firing mechanism so that the firing mechanism cannot be actuated.

13. The firearm of claim 12, wherein the magazine safety comprises a lever that engages a pin attached to the sear when the magazine safety is on, and thereby impairs lateral movement of the sear.

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14. A method for disassembling a semi-automatic pistol having a frame, a slide, and a firing mechanism, comprising the steps of:

providing an access port within the slide positioned to align with the firing mechanism;

5 inserting a probe into the access port;

moving the firing mechanism with the probe, and thereby enabling the slide to be removed from the frame.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of moving the firing mechanism with the probe includes the step of depressing a sear out of engagement with a firing-pin assembly.